

Park Point Small Area Plan Public Meeting – March 27, 2013

Comment Summary

The City of Duluth held a public meeting on March 27, 2013, for the Park Point Small Area Plan. Attendees participated in an open house/question answer session that included large maps of the study area and posted notes with comments attached to the maps. Attendees could also submit written comments, both of which are summarized here.

Themes from the comments include:

- **Transportation, traffic, streets:**

- Coast Guard Station deliveries to the building by trucks causes flow/obstruction of traffic.
- Not in favor of widening Minnesota Avenue.
- Disagree with re-routing of vehicular traffic
- Terrible idea to create a 90 degree turn one block over the bridge
- Too much displaced property with immediate right turn.
- Scheduling events on both sides of the bridge that require blocking access to Park Point property.
- Fix the roads, sewer and water lines only
- More pervious pave material, less impervious areas, sidewalks, cement, blacktop ect.
- No street end vacations
- Establish 3 or 4 supported access points (street ends) to the park area with bathrooms and garbage facilities for visitors.
- Park Point residents should not be blocked from accessing any street end.
- Visitors should be encouraged to use supported street ends.
- Should not close any more street end, promote the use of "key" access points
- Concerns about losing parking on street end (25th st).
- Less severe S-curve
- Support idea of connecting tot lot with public access
- Tot lot is not as important as people's homes; make S-curve bigger, slower and safer.
- Eliminate S-Curve, close at 7th and 12th- no through traffic
- MN ave made wider at 12th- too close to home. Area in flood plain, concerns about changes in elevation
- MN ave too narrow 10-12th st- concerns about tearing down whole neighborhood to pave
- Concerns of changing whole neighborhood to make S-curve 5 blocks, only less traffic will solve traffic issues.
- Separate lanes of traffic on town side of bridge to facilitate traffic flows.
- 40th/41st ave- citizen access ways not viable due to adjacent homeowners land grab.
- Street end to small at 37th for general public access, serious security concern.
- Citizens of Duluth deserve access to points already established, recapture "stolen" property and make it walkable.
- Traffic concerns on 9/10th, will this be access to the hotels?
- Promote park and ride at new multi-modal center, more bikes fewer cars
- Toll charge on bridge to create city revenue, only residents after 10pm.
- Only allow residents to drive on park point, visitors be shuttled.

- **Recreation Pathway:**

- Minnesota-St. Louis Avenue: From 8th Street to 19th Street would make a great bike and pedestrian path.
- Not to have traffic diverted but rather have bikes and pedestrians diverted.
- If Minnesota Avenue is realigned for a designated bike path it should be done on the east side.

- Systematically create access to paths to lake and bay with dedicated pedestrian easements, ensuring permanent pedestrian access to both lake and bay.
- Agree with bike lane idea
- One-sided bike lane is a great idea- east side preference
- Leave room in parking lane for snow in winter
- Install more bathrooms and garbage receptacles
- Bigger parking lot on city-owned land (13th St.) to connect with bike trail
- Place bike lane on opposite side of roadway from parking with 2 driving lanes in middle.
- Agree with bike trail onto St. Louis, cars park on other side of bridge eliminating traffic
- Bikes can make immediate right turn, put bike paths there and leave Lake Ave alone
- Substantial public access to the bay at 40th and beyond
- Support Bike trail and recreation around 13 – 17th
- Kiosk's need at bridge to inform of beach rules, city ordinances and environmental protection
- **Emergency Services:**
 - EMT: What is the City going to do about providing certified EMT service for Park Point?
 - Announcement plan for EMT during shipping season
- **Parking:**
 - Provide resident parking pass. At least for residents who live on street ends.
 - Summer/Seasonal resident parking pass in street ends.
- **Enforcement:**
 - Lack of education and enforcement of existing city ordinances protecting sensitive park resources and residents privacy.
 - Excessive, non-equitable taxation of privately owned property and green space, resulting in local area gentrification
 - Not utilizing or implementing the protective actions called for the Minnesota Point Environmental Management Plan
 - Signage- Make beach rules clear on beach: no fires.
 - More waste receptacles on lakeside beach and where beach meets walk-way, also at bridge.
 - Need to expand parking, toilets, changing beach-house and lifeguard at Franklin Park
 - Public access areas should not exist at street ends unless there is accommodations for restrooms, parking and trash with more tourist recreation will have issues with garbage parties ect.
- **Land Use:**
 - No to mixed use water-front, use concerns of more hotels and restaurants
 - Protect Park Point from over development
 - Keep area on bay side south of 39th as undeveloped, nicely mowed park land.
 - Forfeited land by Harbor Point Circle, communication between city and county.
- **General Comment:**
 - What is wrong with what already exists?
 - What will come if S-curve eliminated
 - If it is not broke don't fix it.
 - No dog park
 - Balance must be found to support responsible use and access.
 - How were people chosen to be on the committee?
 - Committee should include more people affected.
 - Keep 30 minute scheduling for boat traffic with electronic sign for 1,000 footage
 - Duluth Rowing Club- DNR wants a definition of "public need" for the future use of possible expansion @ current site.
 - Areas around 14th St. should be recreational to St. Louis, not the existing house who leases the land.
 - South end considerations for protection
 - Airport zoned R-1 at South end, consider changing to P-1.
 - *Owners want to know where they can make investments and how neighborhoods will change over time. There is concern over eminent domain and a perception that UMD might purchase the Woodland school site.

- **Future Maps:**
 - Outline boundary of airport
 - Outline of SNA boundary

* Comment has two subject matters.